Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty *(Ezhuvas-Trichur):* I do not want the amount. I want an answer with regard to the persons as to whether they are assessed.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):* Even with respect to persons it will come under prohibition.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty *(Ezhuvas-Trichur):* Questions like this have been answered in this House on previous occasions.

Mr. President: So many things have been done in this House before.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty *(Ezhuvas-Trichur):* May I know, under which section is it prohibited?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):* Under section 56 of Act VIII of 1108.

Mr. President: The Secretary to Government will be liable to prosecution if he answers that question *(Laughter).*

COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS—SUPPLY TO HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS

4. Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty *(Ezhuvas-Trichur):* Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether Official Reports of the Cochin Legislative Council Proceedings are being regularly supplied to all the Heads of Departments;

(*b*) if not, to whom are they not supplied?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):* (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No answer is necessary in view of the answer to (*a*).

Mr. K. R. Viswambaran *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Is it supplied to all minor Heads of Departments such as Ayurveda, etc.?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):* He is not a minor Head of Department.

PAWNBROKERS' BILL—INTRODUCTION OF

5. Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether the Government has noted the comment of the Editor, "The Madras Mail" dated 15th August 1940, under the caption of 'Licensing of pawnbrokers' and also the summary of the 'Bill to control the

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business of pawnbrokers' published on page 8 of the same issue of the "Mail";

(*b*) whether the Government be pleased to state the number of people who have taken up the profession of the pawnbroker in the State and also the approximate business transacted by such people or institutions who do such business in the guise of private unregistered banks;

(*c*) whether the Police Department or any Civil or Criminal Court has received any complaint of people who have been duped by such pawnbrokers;

(*d*) if so, the total number of such cases within the last three years with the last day of Karkadagam 1115;

(*e*) whether the Government be pleased to introduce legislation on the model of the Madras Bill to control the business of pawnbrokers?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):* (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) About 47 persons are reported to have taken up this profession. The approximate business transacted ranges from Rs. 50 to Rs. 10,000.

(*c*) No complaint has been received.

(*d*) No answer necessary in view of answer to (c).

(*e*) Government do not think that there is immediate necessity for legislation in the manner proposed.

S. I. R. COMPANY—VALUE OF SHARES AND DIVIDEND DECLARED

6. Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Will the Government be pleased to ascertain and inform—

(*a*) the face value of an ordinary share of the South Indian Railway Company;

(*b*) the market value of such a share now;

(*c*) what was the last dividend declared on such an ordinary share by the Company?

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